

skillful in the adaptation of these to the several phases of morbid action presented in individual cases. Of the professional career of these gentlemen, the story, taken in connection with the circumstances amid which their lives were passed—their respective characters, personal habits, and domestic and social surroundings, constitute a theme which, when fitly dealt with, is as instructive as it is interesting.

The lives of some of those we have just had reference to, have been ably and fully delineated; of others we have as yet but imperfect records, and of many none at all, while in the mean time the materials necessary for their preparation are fast disappearing.

Early in the present century an effort was made by Dr. James Thatcher, of Massachusetts, to collect the biographies of the more distinguished of our older physicians, and as far as the effort extended it was attended with marked success. Some years later the same thing was attempted, by Dr. Stephen W. Williams, likewise of Massachusetts. Neither of these works, nor the two together, cover the entire ground of American medical biography. The number of distinguished medical men of our country, whose lives are omitted, far exceed that embraced in them. Nor does the volume before us supply, to any great extent, the omissions of Thatcher and Williams. There are still materials sufficient for many more volumes of American Medical Biography, even though the life of no one should be admitted whose demise occurred later than the end of the first quarter of the current century.

The volume under notice is an exceedingly interesting one. The lives contained in it, with scarcely a single exception, are written with ability, and commendable impartiality, presenting a very vivid and spirited delineation of the character and services, the professional and social status of their respective subjects. But three of these memoirs—those of Drs. John Syng Dorsey, Ephraim McDowell, and Daniel Drake are from the pen of Dr. Gross, the others have been derived from other sources—either from the personal friends of those who are their subjects, or qualified, at least in a special manner, for the delicate and responsible office of their biographers from an intimate acquaintance with their career, their labours, and their character. The plan is an excellent one, and better calculated to insure a just delineation of character than were the entire series of biographies prepared by a single individual.

Several of the lives in the present volume—those of Hosack, McClellan, and Hartshorne—have been prepared by the sons of their respective subjects. The task, which is confessedly one of unusual delicacy, has been performed in the instances before us, with commendable taste and judgment.

The memoirs presented in the work of Dr. Gross are arranged in chronological order according to the period of decease of those whom they respectively commemorate. A somewhat awkward plan, which gives Drs. Dorsey, Godman and Eberle precedence of Dr. James Thatcher, a practitioner only a very few years the junior of Dr. Rush.

The work of Dr. Gross is in all respects deserving of a favourable reception, not only from American physicians generally, but from the community at large. It is one well adapted to popularize the character and office of the medical practitioner, by placing his educational requirements, his professional services, and his claims upon his fellow citizens in a proper light before the public.

D. F. C.

ART. XXXI.—*A Catalogue of the Pathological Cabinet of the New York Hospital.* Classified and arranged by ROBERT RAY, Jr., M.D., Curator. With a Memoir of the author. 8vo, pp. 364. New York, S. S. and W. Wood, 1860.

EVERY large hospital where clinical instruction is given should have attached to it a pathological museum, in order that the demonstrations of disease in the living subject may be illustrated still further, and the ante-mortem and post-

mortem phenomena placed, as it were, side by side. With most men, and perhaps especially in dealing with such a science as medicine, the memory retains impressions made upon the eye better than those which fall upon the ear. Hence, where students are to be practically taught in the elements of their profession, and in many cases to receive their preparation for an immediate entrance upon its active duties, it is important that the lecturer should be provided with specimens exhibiting the causes, as well as the meaning, of symptoms. A striking instance of this is found in diseases of the chest; a teacher can explain abnormal heart or lung sounds to infinitely greater advantage by means of specimens, or even diagrams, showing the lesions met with, than by mere description.

The New York Hospital was, we believe, the first institution of the kind in this country to act upon this idea; its museum was first opened in 1841. The example thus set has been recently followed at the Pennsylvania Hospital, as well as at the Baltimore Infirmary. Our impression is that at nearly all the English hospitals, as well as at some of those in Germany and France, more or less extensive pathological collections have been made.

As a matter of course, a full descriptive catalogue greatly enhances the value of every such collection. Very few specimens in morbid anatomy are self-explaining, and often our conclusions are essentially modified by the knowledge of certain circumstances in the antecedent history of a case. A catalogue may, indeed, be so prepared as to be of great use even to those who have not access to the collection itself, and especially to such as are labouring in a similar field. The largest and best work of this kind is probably the catalogue of the splendid museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London, arranged by Messrs. Stanley and Paget. Equally well known, or perhaps more so, from the frequency with which they are quoted, are the two octavo volumes and the atlas of exquisite lithographic plates published by the Parisian Faculty of Medicine, describing and illustrating the bony preparations contained in the Musée Dupuytren.

The catalogue whose title heads the present notice, although a far more unpretending work than those just mentioned, bears evidence of great care and judgment in its preparation, and contains much that will prove interesting as well as useful to pathologists. Its author, whose talents and industry were bidding fair to win for him a high professional rank, was called from all earthly labour before this volume had been given to the press; and his former preceptor, Dr. Watson, has prefixed to it a short sketch of his life.

It would of course be impossible to enter into anything like an analysis of a work, one of the chief objects of which is conciseness of description; suffice it to say that the catalogue of the Museum of Guy's Hospital was the model adopted in framing it, and that the collection has been classified into eight sections. These are (1) the bones; (2) the joints and tendons; (3) the digestive system; (4) the respiratory system; (5) the circulatory system; (6) the nervous system and organs of special sense; (7) the genital and urinary systems; (8) parasites. Under these heads are arranged descriptions of nearly one thousand specimens, with references attached to many of them, by which their histories may if desired be still further traced. By the regulations of the New York Hospital, the house physicians are obliged to keep ample records of all the cases treated in the institution; and in this way a very large mass of experience has been accumulated. The pages of these case-books are often referred to in the catalogue of the pathological cabinet.

We cannot but regard the publication of this volume as an important step in the advancement of medical science in America, and as a fresh recognition of the value of morbid anatomy. Dr. Ray's last work will have gained for him an enduring remembrance among his professional brethren, should it prove the earnest of greater things in the cultivation of pathology in our hospitals; and such we trust it will.

J. H. P.